

REMARKS

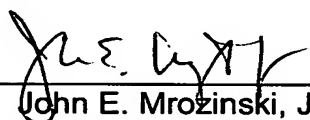
The present application is a divisional of U.S. Serial No. 10/251,155, which was filed on September 20, 2002. Applicants have amended the specification to reflect that fact and to correct the term "alkaline" metal to --alkali-- metal throughout. The claims have been amended to remove therefrom the allowed subject matter of the parent application. Specifically, Claims 1-13 and 21-25 have been cancelled and Claims 14-20 have been amended. Such amendment is to be construed as "truly cosmetic" and is not believed to narrow the scope of the claims or raise an estoppel within the meaning of *Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd., et al.*, 535 U.S. 722 (2002). Applicants also contend that such claim amendments add no new matter and find support in the specification.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early examination and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested for Claims 14-20. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the instant application is in condition for other than allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' Attorney at the telephone number given below so that additional changes may be discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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